

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	DOCKET NO. RPU-99-1
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ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT

(Issued November 30, 1999)

This docket involves a proposed tariff filed by U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S West), to recover the costs of implementing intraLATA dialing parity. By order issued April 13, 1999, the Utilities Board (Board) docketed the tariff for investigation and scheduled a hearing for July 28, 1999.

On July 22, 1999, U S West filed a motion for cancellation of the hearing, alleging that the parties were engaged in discussions concerning possible modifications to the proposed tariff. The parties believed the discussions would be successful and the hearing would be unnecessary, so they authorized U S West to file the motion to cancel the hearing. In response to the motion, the Board issued an order on July 23, 1999, rescheduling the hearing for October 13, 1999, to permit the parties an opportunity to conclude their discussions.

On October 12, 1999, the parties informally advised Board staff that they had agreed in principle to a settlement of all issues in the docket, but had not yet memorialized that agreement. They asked the Board to cancel the hearing to permit the parties time to document their settlement.

On October 12, 1999, the Board granted the informal request to cancel the hearing and directed the parties to file any stipulation or settlement on or before October 26, 1999.

On October 26, 1999, U S West filed a proposed settlement agreement and a joint motion to accept the settlement. That document was signed only by U S West. On October 28, 1999, U S West filed a replacement copy of the joint motion and proposed settlement, signed by all parties to this proceeding.

The Board has reviewed the proposed settlement and finds it is reasonable, consistent with law and in the public interest. The Board will approve the settlement. The parties have agreed to a specific cost recovery mechanism, subject to an annual true-up using specified factors, that will produce just and reasonable rates. The agreement is made for settlement purposes only and has no precedential effect in future Board proceedings. By signing this agreement, no party has waived any argument with respect to any of the principles or methodologies used in the Agreement if they are applied (or proposed for use) in any other docket.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The joint unopposed motion to accept stipulation and settlement agreement, filed by the parties to this proceeding on October 28, 1999, is approved. U S West is directed to file revised tariffs complying with the terms of the settlement within 30 days of the date of this order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Sharon Mayer
Executive Secretary, Assistant to

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 30th day of November, 1999.